

CULTURE, SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN THE GERMAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES- IRE214

Maya Hadar

Fall 2018

Session 8: Austrian History

Austrian History

2



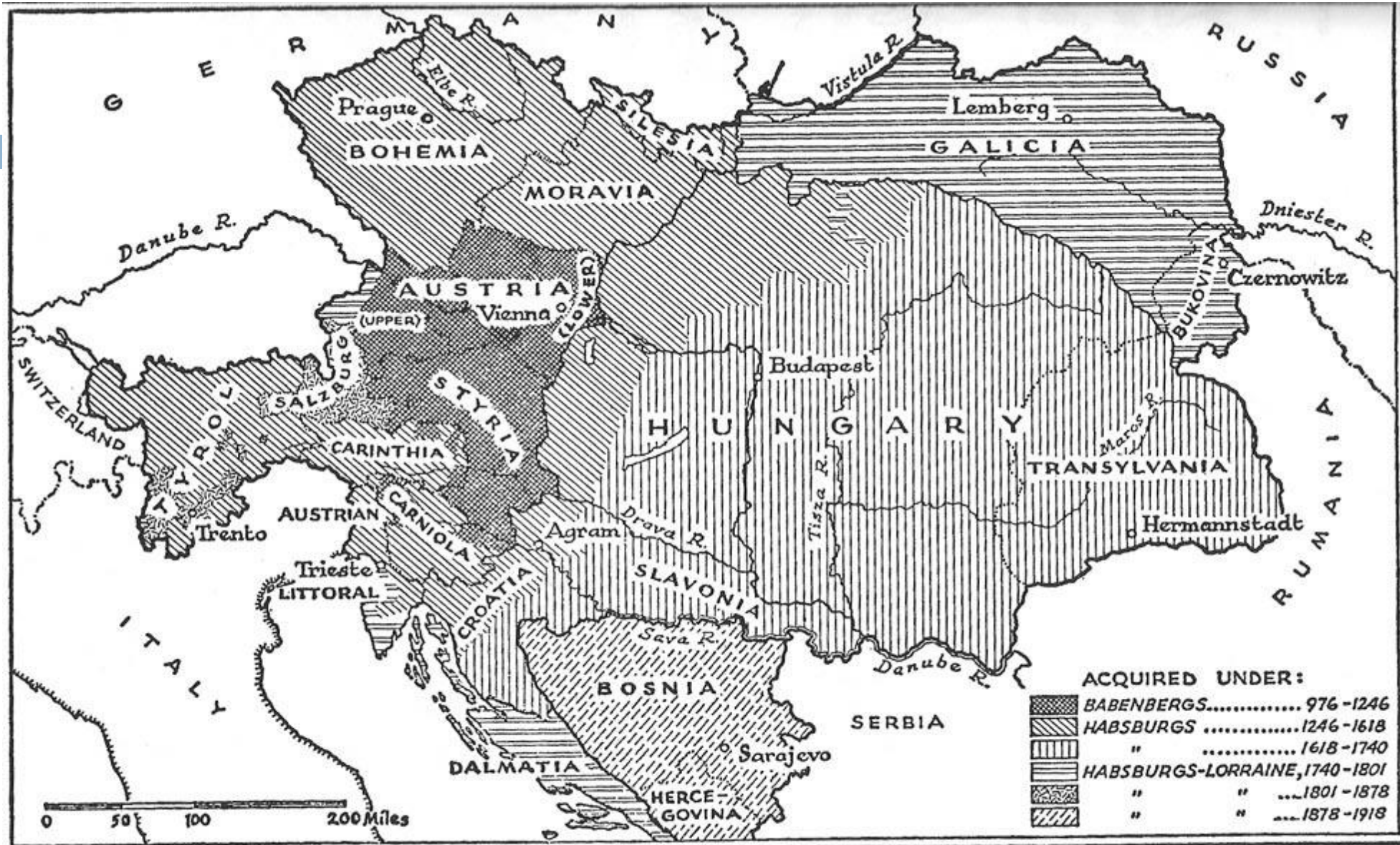
- **Keeping up with the Habsburgs**
- **The Austrian Empire**
- **The Austro-Hungarian Empire**
 - **Nationalism**
 - **Army**
 - **Economy**



The Habsburgs aka House of Austria



- One of the most **important royal houses of Europe**
- Best known for being the **origin of all Holy Roman Emperors** between 1438 and 1740, as well as **rulers of the Austrian Empire, Spanish Empire** and several other countries.
- The Habsburgs **controlled** many regions in **Europe** starting from the **10th Century**
 - Owned territories in Alsace, Switzerland up until the early 20th century



AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Only changes within the boundaries from 1878-1918, including the occupied and in 1908 annexed territory of Bosnia-Hercegovina, are shown on this map.

The Habsburgs aka House of Austria

- The House takes its name from **Habsburg Castle**, a fortress built around 1020–1030 in present day Switzerland by Count Radbot of Klettgau
- His grandson, **Otto II**, was the first to take the fortress name as his own, adding "von Habsburg" to his title



The Habsburgs aka House of Austria



- The **origins** of the castle's **name** are **uncertain**
- It is assumed to be derived from the High German **Habichtsburg** (Hawk Castle), but some historians + linguists are convinced that the name comes from the Middle High German word "**hab/hap**" meaning **ford** (brod), as there is a river with a ford nearby
- The **Habsburg Castle** was the **family seat** in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries



The Habsburgs aka House of Austria



- The House of Habsburg gathered dynastic momentum through the **11th, 12th and 13th centuries**
- By **1276**, Count Radbot's seventh generation descendant, **Rudolph of Habsburg**, had moved the **family's power base** from Habsburg Castle to the Archduchy of **Austria**.
- **1273** => Rudolph became **King of Germany/Holy Roman Emperor**
- **1276** => House of Habsburg was truly entrenched when **Rudolph** became **sovereign ruler of Austria** (ruled by the Habsburgs for the next six centuries)

The Habsburgs aka House of Austria



- A **powerful family**, they often made **land alliances** through **marriage**
 - Such marriages enabled the family to vastly expand its domains (Burgundy, Spain, Bohemia, Hungary etc.)
- Resulted in much **in-breeding** => descendants of the Habsburgs typically had unique facial features including a protruding lower lip and chin



The Habsburgs aka House of Austria



- **1453** => a Habsburg descendent, **Friedrich III** was crowned **Holy Roman Emperor**
- With the title and influence, he began to **raise cultural pride in Austria**, claiming that Austria was a **superior nation** to others
- In pursuit of his belief, he **waged war against King Matthias Corvinus of Hungary**
- Friedrich defeated the Hungarian king and **conquered Vienna**



The Habsburgs aka House of Austria

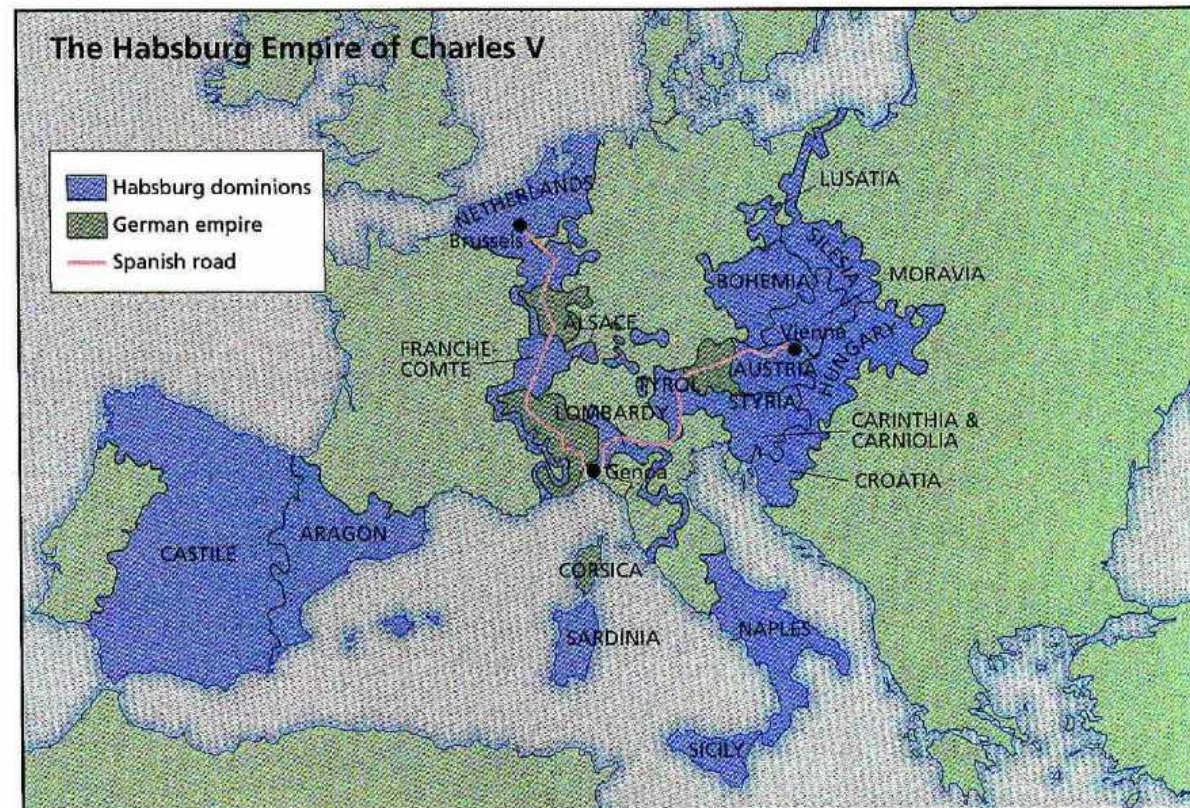


- **1477** => Friedrich III was also able to promote the **marriage** of his son, Maximilian, to Maria of Burgundy in order to **acquire additional land** for the Habsburg Empire
- Friedrich III was influential in establishing the marriage of his other son, Philip, to Joan, daughter of King Ferdinand II of Aragon and Queen Isabella I of Castile, thus **ensuring his families interests in the regions held by Spain** (but also **Italy, the Netherlands, and North America**)



The Habsburgs aka House of Austria

- Philip and Joan had two sons => Charles I and Ferdinand I
- **1516** => Charles I became **Spain's ruler**
- **1519** => Charles I was crowned **Charles V, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire**



The Habsburgs aka House of Austria



- As he **controlled a vast amount of land**, he **delegated control** over Austria, Bohemia, and Hungary **to his brother, Ferdinand I**
- **Wars** began to occur between the (Christian) **Habsburgs** and the (Moslem) **Ottoman Empire** (Turks)
- **1532** => Turks wanted to take control of **Vienna** => economically viable + strategically located
- Ferdinand I, who moved his court to Vienna, battled the Turks to defend it => Turks withdrew from the city

The Habsburgs aka House of Austria



- Unity between **Charles** and **Ferdinand I** lasted until Charles abdicated his position as Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire
- Charles gave control of **Spain, Italy, and the Netherlands** to his son, Philip II
- Charles' brother, **Ferdinand I** was given reign over **Central European territories** => caused a **split within the family** => **Ferdinand I**, not Philip II, was **designated** by Charles to become the new **Holy Roman Emperor**

The Habsburgs aka House of Austria



- During the remaining 1500's and into the 1600's => Habsburgs were involved in **internal political intrigues, external wars** with the Turks, and **diseases** (black death in Vienna in the 1680s)
- 1600's => the family separated into the **senior Habsburg Spain** and **junior Habsburg Monarchy** branches
- 1600's => The **thirty year's war** between Catholics and Protestants
 - Fenestration of Prague protestant => Protestant states (Sweden, the Netherlands) sent troops were sent to fight the Catholics



The Thirty Years' War

- **Both Catholic and Protestant rulers shifted sides according to politics-**
 - Catholic France joined Lutheran Sweden against the Catholic Hapsburgs
 - Hapsburgs controlled Spain as well as Austria
- Murder and torture were followed by famine and disease => **depopulation** in much of central Europe
- **1648** => the **Treaty of Westphalia** was signed ending the war
 - France gained land on both the Spanish and German fronts
- **Early 1700s'** => the **Hapsburg empire included Germans, Slavs etc.**
 - Allowed each ethnicity to practice and live as they did before

The Habsburgs aka House of Austria



- 16th century => the family **separated** into the **senior Habsburg Spain** and **junior Habsburg Monarchy** branches
- During the remaining 1500's and into the 1600's => Habsburgs were involved in **internal political intrigues, external wars** with the Turks, and **diseases** (black death in Vienna in the 1680s)
- Only in the **1700's Charles VI**, current Austrian emperor, tried to **unify Habsburg control** and guarantee the empire's continuance
- Charles had **no male heirs**, arranged for his daughter, **Maria Theresa** to marry Francis I of Lorraine => **alliance meant to extend the Habsburg lineage into France**



Charles VI => Maria Theresa

- Until then **no women had ever controlled Hapsburg land by herself**
- Charles **convinced** many **European families** to **recognize** Maria Theresa's **right to the throne**
 - Many **ignored** that promise after his death





Rise of Prussia

- **Austria** => strong **Catholic** State
- **Prussia** => equally strong **Protestant** State
- Under the leadership of the **Hohenzollern family**, Prussia:
 - Built a large and very strong army
 - Set up a system of bureaucracy to reduce the power of local nobles
- By **1740** Prussia was strong enough to challenge Austria



Austrian Succession

- 1740–1748 => **a conglomeration of related wars**, two of which developed directly from the **death of Charles VI, Holy Roman emperor and head of the Austrian branch** of the house of Habsburg, on Oct. 20, **1740**
- Many European nations challenged **Maria Theresa's** rule but she was **successful in retaining control** over her lands
- 1740-1780 => During **Maria Theresa's** reign, a "**Golden Age**" existed for **Austria**, and the Habsburg Empire: art, other cultural developments were encouraged



The Habsburgs Civic Policies

- **New civil policies** were instituted => formal system of **public education**
- As Maria Theresa aged, her son, **Joseph II**, became her successor
- Agreed with his mother's established policies and tried to issue even more reforms => **tolerance** towards people of different **religious** beliefs





Balance of Power

- As **Austria** and **Prussia** became more **powerful**, **wars** broke out **across Europe**
- The largest was the **7 Years' War (1756-1763)**
 - Was fought on **4 different continents**
 - Prussia, Austria, Russia, France and Britain fought in Europe
 - Britain and France fought in India, Africa and North America
 - Treaty of Paris ends the war and gives England a huge Empire



The Habsburgs

- **18th century** => House of Habsburg became **extinct in the male line**
 - **1700** => **Spanish branch ended** upon the **death of Charles II**, replaced by the Anjou branch of the House of Bourbon
 - **1740** => The **Austrian branch** went extinct in the **male** person with the death of **Charles VI** and in the **female** person in **1780** with the death of his daughter **Maria Theresa** => succeeded by the Vaudemont branch of the House of Lorraine
 - The new successor house styled itself formally as **House of Habsburg-Lorraine** (German: Habsburg-Lothringen), though was often referred to as **House of Habsburg**

The Habsburgs

- **Late 18th early 19th centuries => Napoleon**
Bonaparte came to power in France, the Habsburgs faced a **new enemy**
- **1806 => Franz II**, grandson of Maria Theresa, king of Germany and Austria, Holy Roman Emperor, **forced to relinquish his titles** to Napoleon
- **Habsburgs tried to appease Napoleon** (arranging the marriage of Franz II's daughter, Marie Louise)
- **1815=> Defeat over Napoleon** at the battle of Waterloo





The Hapsburg Empire

24

- Beginning of the **1800s'** => the **Hapsburg family** controlled much of the region for nearly four centuries

EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH (1848-1916)

- **Centralized** administration, dominated by **German-speaking Austrians**
- All **internal tariffs** were **abolished**
- **Hungary** was **divided** into military districts
- The **Catholic Church** controlled **education**



The Austrian Empire



25

Resistance to Change

- Austrian emperor, Foreign Minister **Metternich** tried to **maintain power of monarchy**
- Accused universities of creating **revolutionaries**

Carlsbad Decrees

- Metternich called meeting of Confederation, passed **Carlsbad Decrees**
- **Prohibited** any reforms that conflicted with absolute monarchy

Other Prohibitions

- **Censorship** of newspapers
- Created **secret police** to spy on students suspected of revolutionary activities



The Austrian Empire

26

Metternich not only created **restrictive laws** for the empire:

- Formed alliances with other European powers trying to **prevent nationalist revolutions**
- **1820 => Congress of Troppau**
 - Called by Metternich, leaders of other powers
 - Aimed at **uniting European powers** in an attempt to **prevent nationalist revolutions**
 - Leaders agreed to provide **military intervention** to support governments **against internal revolution**

Revolution



27

- Metternich was **able to sustain the Austrian Empire** for a few years
- However, events in Europe eventually caught up with it:
 - **Revolutions** in France and Italy
 - German states set off revolts in Austrian Empire; **people with different nationalities wanted independence**
- **Clashes** between demonstrators and the army in the streets of Vienna
- **Frightened** emperor **Ferdinand** ordered **Metternich** to resign
- **Metternich fled** Austria

Franz Josef I



28

- **1848** => **Ferdinand** abdicated the throne went to nephew **Franz Josef I**
 - Deeply seated in his own **anachronism**
 - **Disliked** everything **liberal**, progressive, modern
 - **Incapable** of ambitious projects, bold decisions, persevering actions



The Hapsburg Empire



- **1853** => Franz Josef survived an assassination attempt
- As **worries about succession** increased, Franz Joseph looked for a **wife**
 - Fell for his 16 year old cousin, **Elisabeth** (Sissi) of Bavaria
 - Was often away from court (traveled Europe extensively, fashion icon)
 - Encouraged her husband to support the **Hungarian cause**
 - **1898** => **stabbed** to death by an anarchist in Geneva



The Habsburgs vs. Nationalism



30

1848 => **Hungarian** Magyars **rebelled** against Austrian rule (almost successful)

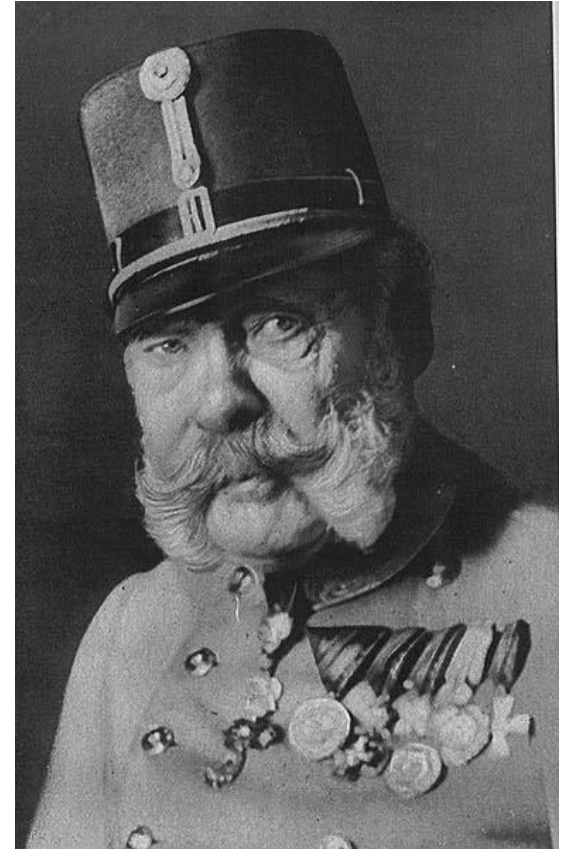
- Czar Nicholas I of **Russia** sent troops to **help Austria** crush revolt
- Franz Josef I **stopped the liberal reforms of 1848** but could not eradicate **nationalism** => ruled over over **unstable empire**



The Habsburgs vs. Nationalism

31

- Post 1848 =>
 - **Germanic centralization of language:** was condemned by non-German nationalities, especially the Magyars (made up less than half the mixed Hungarian population)
 - **Bureaucratic efficiency and modernization**
 - Maintained the **abolition of serfdom** (from 1848)



Serfdom is the status of many peasants under feudalism, specifically relating to manorialism (name for the organization of the economy in the Middle Ages). The economy relied mainly on agriculture.



The Dual Monarchy

32

Forming a New Government

- Nationalist movement continued in Europe
 - **1859** => **Austria lost** Lombardy to Italy
 - **1860** => **Austrian federation** with local diets and a single imperial government (rejected by the Magyars)
 - **1867** => **Agreement** between **Franz Josef I** and **Hungarian nationalist movement** leaders to form 2 separate countries with a common ruler

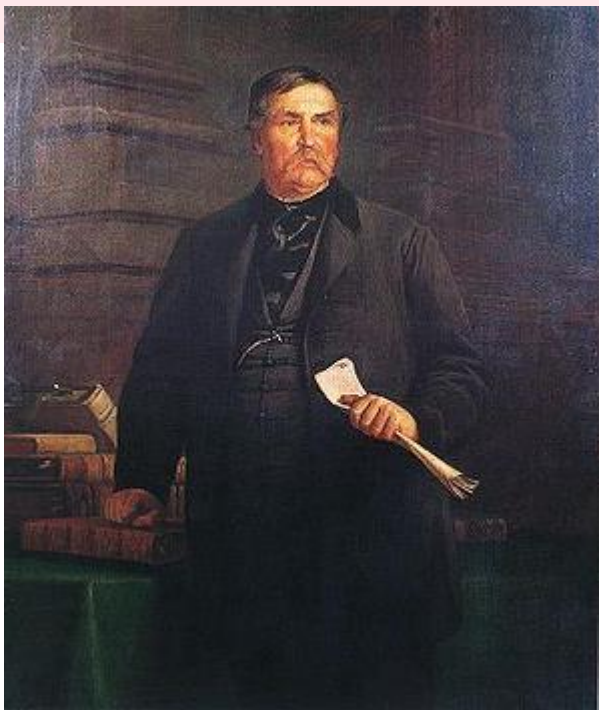




The Dual Monarchy

33

Franz Josef I could not stop the nationalist movement => Change came in the form of the '**Ausgleich**'



Compromise of 1867

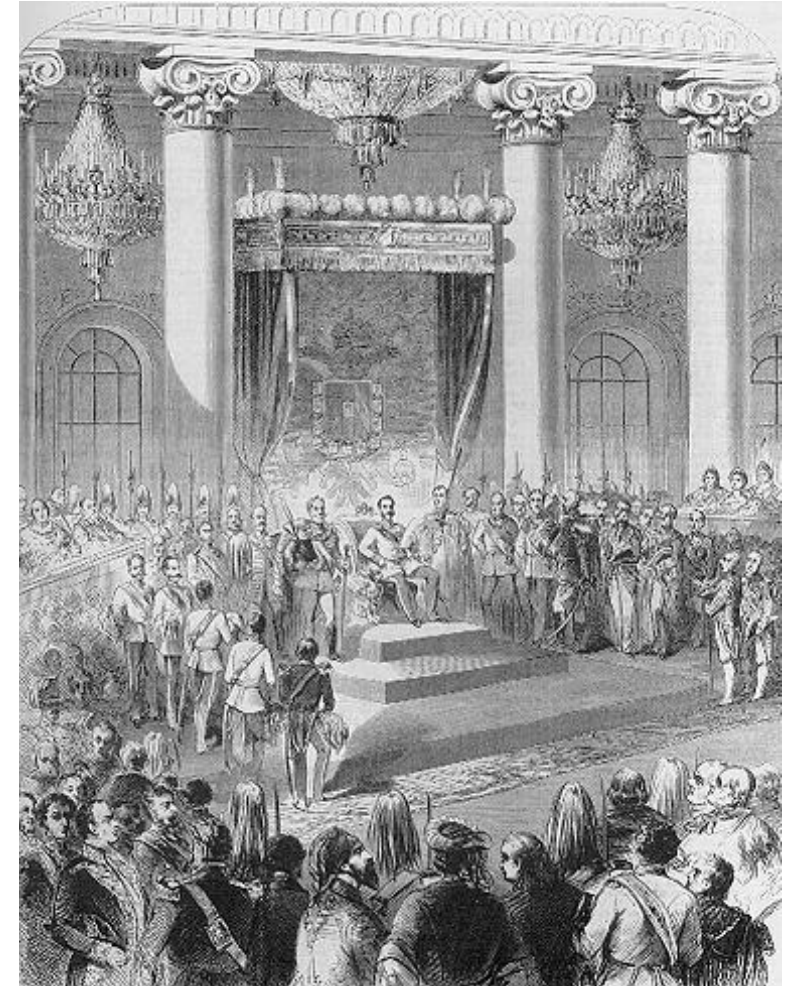
- **Dual monarchy**
- Austria and Hungary became two **separate, equal states under Franz Josef I** => emperor of Austria, king of Hungary
- Each state had its **own constitution and parliament**
- Monarch's **common government** shared responsibility for the army, navy, foreign policy and the customs union



The Dual Monarchy

34

- **No common laws** in Austria-Hungary: All laws, even identical ones had to pass in both parliaments (Vienna and Budapest)
- Linking/**co-ordinating** the two fell to a government under a **monarch**, wielding power absolute in theory but limited in practice
- The Austro-Hungarian government became a **cosmopolitan bureaucracy** => multicultural organization of non-elected officials





The Dual Monarchy

35

- The **Hungarians pursued Magyarization** in their part of the empire, suppressing Slavic languages and culture
- To manage the situation in Austria, Prime Minister Edward von **Taaffe expanded voting rights** and tried to win over the Czechs, Slovaks, and Poles by including them in the Imperial Parliament
- **German nationalists resented** these policies



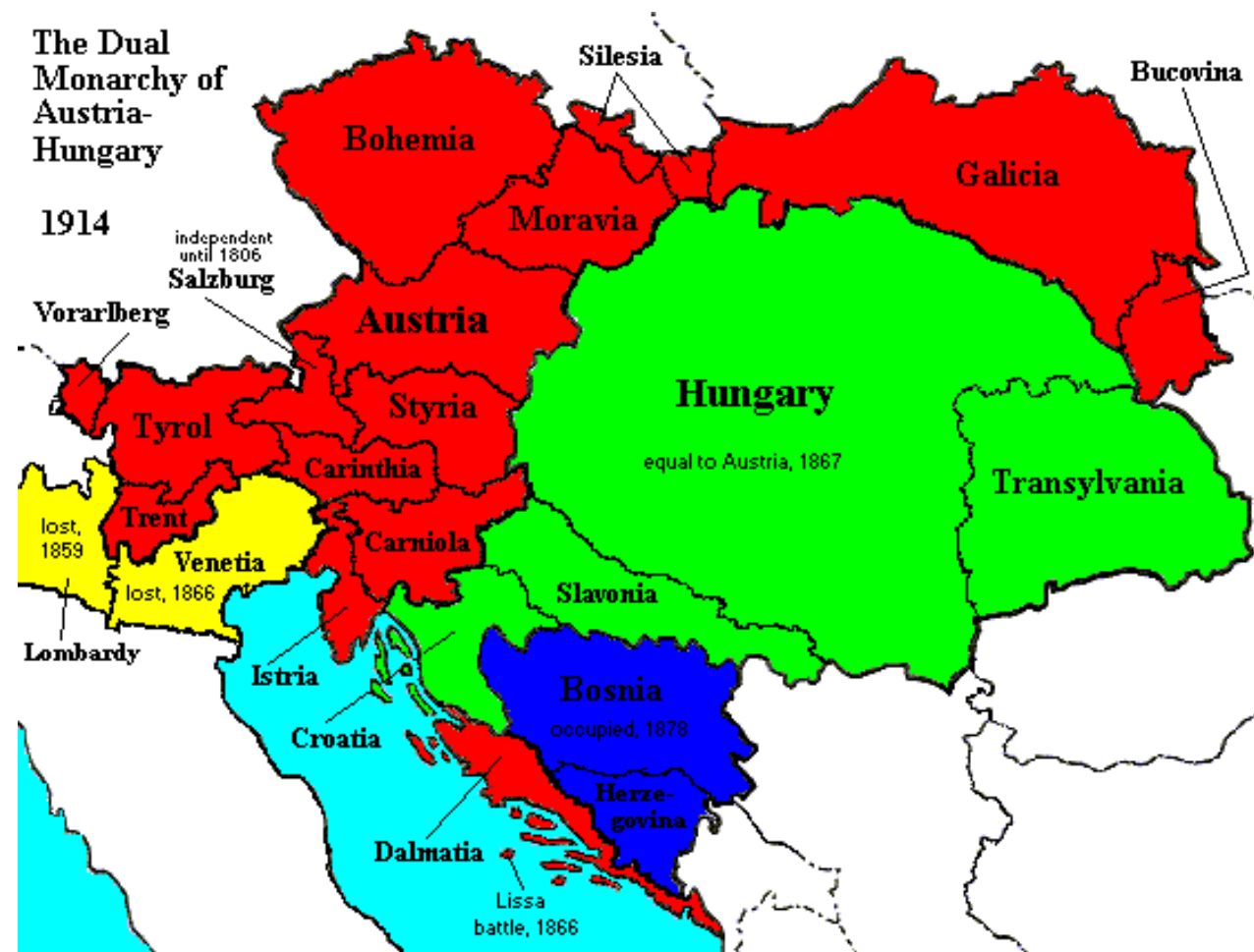


The Dual Monarchy

36

Rural and Industrial

- **Dual Monarchy lasted until 1918 (about 50 years)**
- Eased pressure of **nationalism** had **economic** advantages:
 - Rural, agricultural Hungary provided raw materials, food
 - Industrialized Austria provided industrial products





The Dual Monarchy

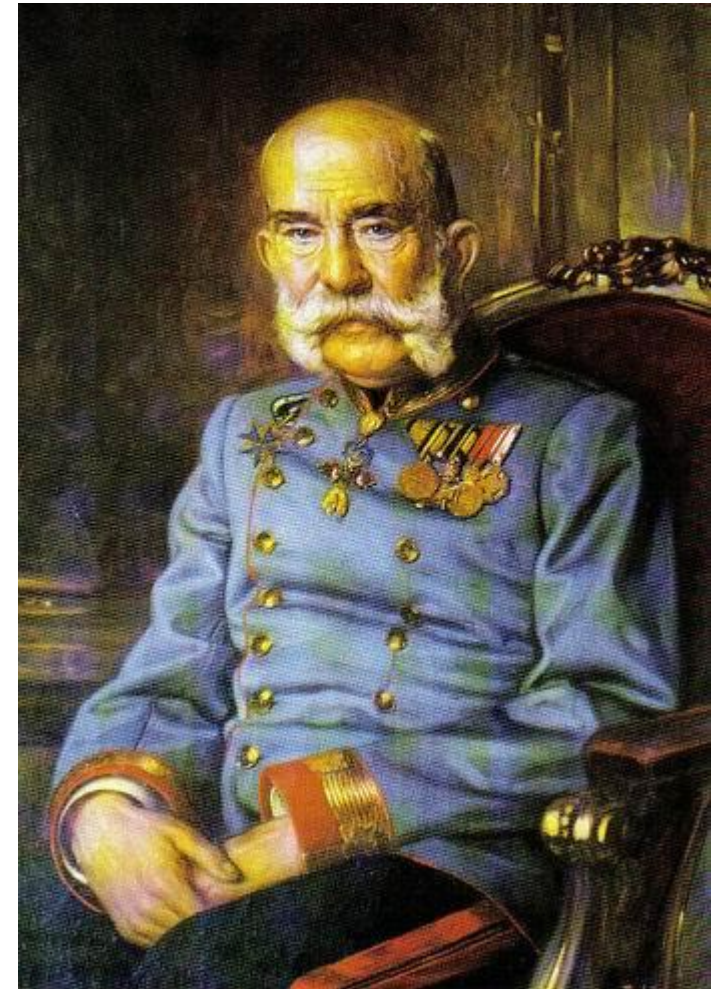
- Anti-Semitism emerged as a political force in Austrian politics with the rise of the Christian Social Party
 - **1897- 1910** => Karl **Lueger** served as mayor of Vienna and pursued policy of **restriction and exclusion against Jews**





The Dual Monarchy

- **Political difficulties** in Austria **mounted** continuously through the **late 1800s** and into the **20th century**
- **Franz Joseph** remained immensely **respected**
- His **patriarchal authority** held the Empire together while the politicians squabbled





The Dual Monarchy

- After **Rudolf**, heir to the throne, **died in 1889**, **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** (Franz Joseph's nephew) **became heir**
- **Simmering nationalism** among ethnic groups under Austrian domination caused disruption in the Reichsrat and resulted in rule by imperial decree in the late 1890's
- **Continued tension in the Balkans** would eventually result in the chaos of World War I





National and Social Multiculturalism

40

- The "Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867" created **semi-independent states linked by personal union**
- **Neither** nation-state was **democratic**
- **Nationalism** was a big issue facing the new Austria-Hungary due to the huge **ethnic separation** of the two major groups
- Ongoing **push** for **political** and **cultural equality**



National and Social Multiculturalism





National and Social Multiculturalism

- Neither **Germans** not **Hungarians** constituted a majority
- **Language** was one of the most contentious issues in Austro-Hungarian politics => Both governments faced difficulties in deciding on the languages of government + instruction



German	24%
Hungarian	20%
Czech	13%
Polish	10%
Ruthenian	8%
Romanian	6%
Croat	5%
Slovak	4%
Serb	4%
Slovene	3%
Italian	3%



Foreign Policy

43

- **1873** => Germany (Chancellor Otto von Bismarck) forged the 'Three Emperors' League' with **Austria-Hungary** and **Russia**
- The three empires pledged:
 - To **consult** one another on mutual interests in Europe
 - To **remain neutral** when a member state take military action against a non-member state, particularly against **France or the Balkan nations**





Foreign Policy

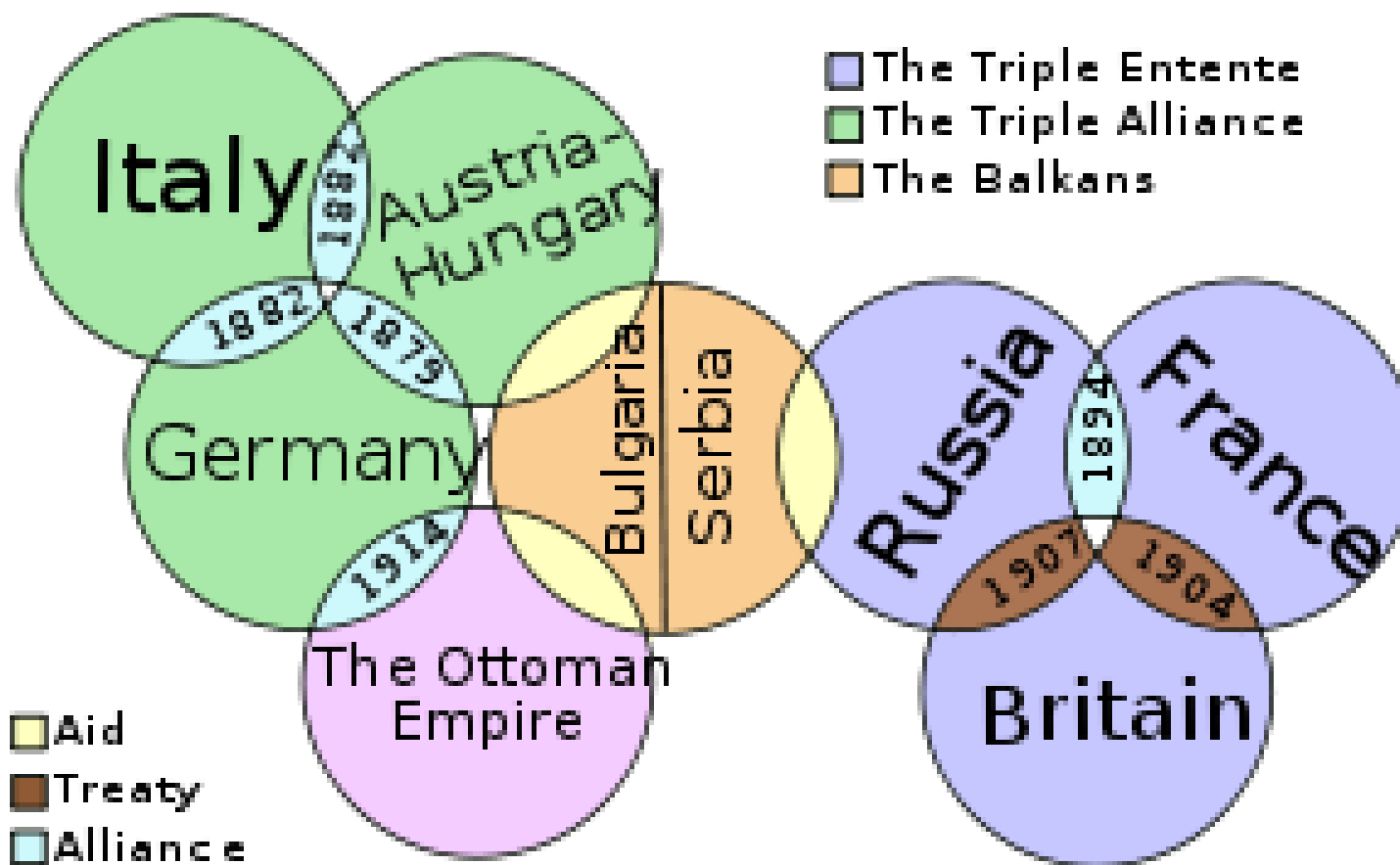
44

- The Austro-Hungarian government **feared attack from Russia**
- 1879 => Austro-Hungary and Germany agreed to form a **Dual Alliance**, expanded to include Italy in 1882
 - Agreed to support each other if attacked by either **France or Russia**
- The Triple Alliance was renewed at five-yearly intervals
- 1907 => The **Triple Entente** between Britain, France, and Russia, reinforced the belief that the former countries needed a military alliance



Alliances Summary

45





Austro-Hungarian Economy

46

- During the Empire's existence, the **capitalist mode of production** spread and replaced medieval institutions
- **1879-1900** => more than **25k km of railways were built**
 - The railway **reduced transportation costs** throughout the Empire, **opening new markets** for products from Austro-Hungarian lands.





Austro-Hungarian Economy

47

- **Austro-Hungary's most important trading partner was Germany**, followed by Great Britain, while trade with geographically neighbouring Russia had a relatively low weight
- **1871-1913** => The GNP per capita grew roughly **1.76%** per year from 1871-1913. That was a **higher level of growth than Britain, France, and Germany**
- Yet, in a comparison with Germany and Britain, the Austrian-Hungarian economy still lagged considerably, as sustained modernization had begun much later

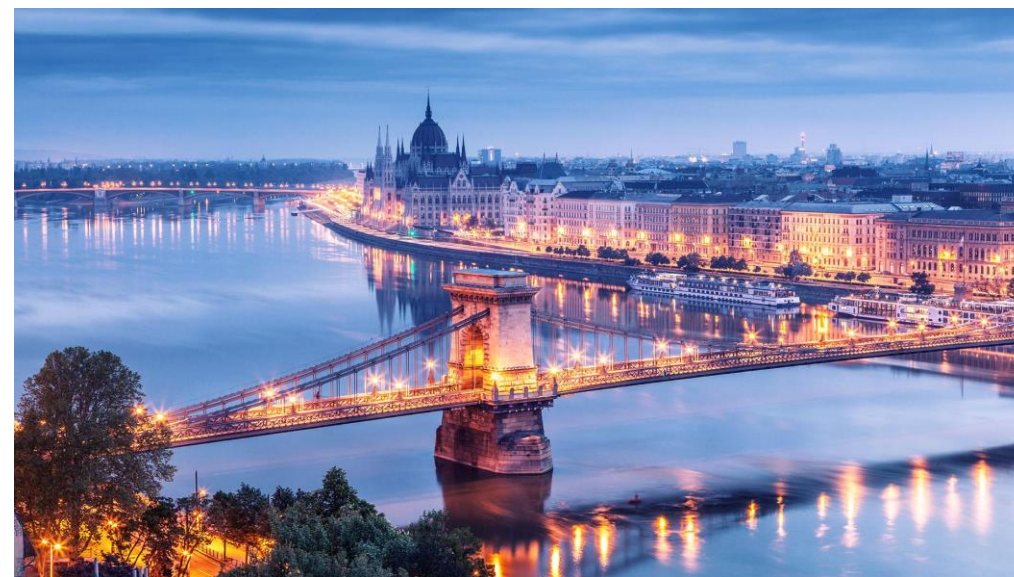




Austro-Hungarian Economy

48

- **1873** => old capital **Buda** and **Obuda** merged with a third city, **Pest**, creating the metropolis of **Budapest**
 - Grew into Austro-Hungary's administrative, political, economic, trade and cultural hub
- Budapest became the **empire's center of agriculture and food industry**
- Large proportion of export to the rest of Europe





Austro-Hungarian Economy

49

- Wide disparities of economic development existed within the Empire:
 - **Western areas became more developed than eastern areas**
- **Economic growth** centered on **Vienna + Budapest**, the **Austrian lands** (areas of modern Austria), the **Alpine region** and the **Bohemian lands**
- Late 19th century => rapid economic growth spread to the central Hungarian plain and to the Carpathian lands





Austro-Hungarian Economy

50

- End of 19th century => economic differences gradually even out
 - Economic growth in the **eastern parts** of the Empire **consistently surpassed** that in the **western**
- By the early 20th century => Division of labour between east and west + existing economic and monetary union, led to an even more **rapid economic growth** throughout Austria-Hungary





Army

51

- The Austro-Hungarian Imperial Army was officially under the control of the Commander-in-Chief, **Emperor Franz Josef** + small navy
- By 1914 Josef was 84 years old and the chief of staff, **Count Franz Conrad**, had more power over the armed forces
- Conrad favoured an **aggressive foreign policy** and advocated the use of military action to solve Austro-Hungary's territorial disputes with **Italy** and **Serbia**





The Black Hand

52

- A **secret military society** formed by members of the Serbian army in the Kingdom of Serbia
- Founded on September 6, **1901**
- Aimed at **uniting all territories** containing significant **Serb populations** annexed by Austria-Hungary
- **1914** => Dragutin Dimitrijević known as **Apis** decided that Archduke **Franz Ferdinand**, heir of Austria, should be **assassinated**. Three young Bosnian-Serbs were recruited and trained





The Black Hand

53

- Those involved probably realized that their plot would invite war between Austria and Serbia
 - Knew that Russia would side with Serbia.
 - Unlikely that they anticipated a world war
- After a first unsuccessful attack, the Archduke was assassinated
- The **guilt** for the crime settled on **Serbia in general**
 - Tensions between Serbia and Austria eventually drew in the other European powers and escalated into a world war

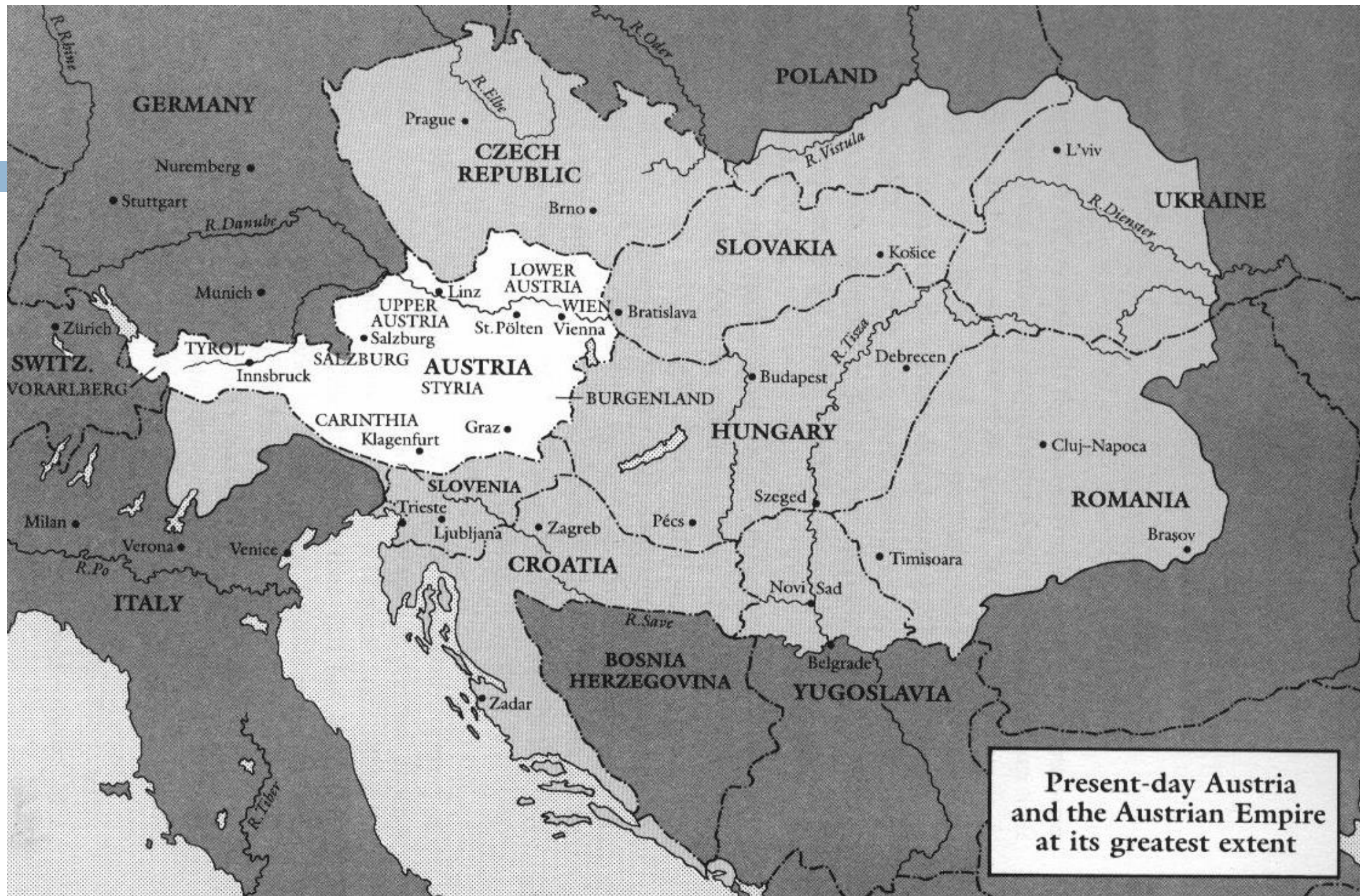


The Dual Monarchy

54

The major factors that kept the Empire together were:

- Loyalty to the Emperor => very popular and multi-lingual (spoke nearly all languages of the Empire)
- The Catholic religion => 90% of Austrians and 60% of Hungarians
- The civil service and the army => dominated by Germans



1800s => The Fall of the Habsburgs

- **1859** => Habsburg control no longer existed in Italy, 1866 in Germany
- Habsburgs still controlled Austria and Hungary as a **Dual Monarchy** of Austria-Hungary
 - Faced problems of self determination during that time => heir to the Austrian throne, Franz Ferdinand, was **assassinated** in Sarajevo in 1914, the Habsburgs declared war on Serbia => propelled Europe into **World War I**



The Fall of the Habsburgs



- **1918**=> The Habsburg Empire was finally dismantled with the defeat of Austria and Hungary at the end of World War I and the founding of the Republic of Austria
- The Habsburg descendants were able to retain their traditional titles but not to rule



The Habsburgs- Conclusion

58

- Had to work out their future with a dozen other **nationalities** around the Danube
- Amazing **resilience** is shown by the Habsburg presence
- Survived until **1918**:
 - Attacked by Revolutionary France (1789-1799)
 - Attacked by Napoleon (1799-1809)
 - Broken up in 1848 and restored by Russian intervention
 - Attacked by Napoleon III in 1859
 - Attacked by Bismarck in 1866 => left 1/6th of Germans outside the empire

Next Session...



59

- **Switzerland!**



Thank You For Your Attention!

Questions???